

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An animal feed comprising:  
a fat, said fat being present in an amount effective to provide nutritive fat to an animal;  
5 a solid nutritive source; and  
a hemicellulose binder, said animal feed being in the form of discrete plural particles of a size suitable for feeding to an animal, said hemicellulose binder being present in each of said particles in at least an amount effective to improve intraparticle cohesion.  
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2. An animal feed according to claim 1, wherein said fat comprises a vegetable fat.
3. An animal feed according to claim 2, wherein said fat is selected from  
15 the group consisting of corn oil and soy oil.
4. An animal feed according to claim 3, wherein said fat comprises corn oil.
- 20 5. An animal feed according to claim 1, wherein said fat comprises an animal fat.
6. An animal feed according to claim 5, wherein said fat comprises choice white grease.

7. An animal feed according to claim 1, wherein said fat is present in said animal feed in an amount of at least about 5% by weight of said feed.

8. An animal feed according to claim 7, wherein said fat is present in said animal feed in an amount of at least about 10% by weight of said feed.

9. An animal feed according to claim 8, wherein said fat is present in said animal feed in an amount of at least about 15% by weight of said feed.

10. An animal feed according to claim 9, wherein said fat is present in said animal feed in an amount of at least about 17% by weight of said feed.

11. An animal feed according to claim 10, wherein said fat is present in said animal feed in an amount of at least about 20% by weight of said feed.

12. An animal feed according to claim 11, wherein said fat is present in said animal feed in an amount of at least about 25% by weight of said feed.

13. An animal feed according to claim 1, wherein said solid nutritive source includes a source selected from the group consisting of soy, oats, sorghum, whole wheat, whole rice, whole corn and whole barley.

14. An animal feed according to claim 13, wherein said solid nutritive source includes a nutritive ingredient selected from the group consisting of vitamins and nutritive minerals.

15. An animal feed according to claim 1, wherein said solid nutritive source includes a source selected from the group consisting of a nutritive wheat fraction, a nutritive rice fraction, a nutritive corn fraction, and a nutritive barley fraction.

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16. An animal feed according to claim 15, wherein said solid nutritive source includes a nutritive ingredient selected from the group consisting of vitamins and nutritive minerals.

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17. An animal feed according to claim 1, wherein said solid nutritive source includes protein, said protein being present in an amount ranging from about 5% to about 35% by weight of said animal feed.

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18. An animal feed according to claim 17, wherein said solid nutritive source includes protein, said protein being present in an amount ranging from about 10% to about 30% by weight of said animal feed.

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19. An animal feed according to claim 18, wherein said solid nutritive source includes protein, said protein being present in an amount ranging from about 15% to about 20% by weight of said animal feed.

20. An animal feed according to claim 1, wherein said hemicellulose is present in said animal feed in an amount ranging from about 0.2% to about 10% by weight of said animal feed.

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21. An animal feed according to claim 20, wherein said hemicellulose is present in said animal feed in an amount ranging from about 0.5% to about 8% by weight of said animal feed.

5 22. An animal feed according to claim 21, wherein said hemicellulose is present in said animal feed in an amount ranging from about 1% to about 6% by weight of said animal feed.

10 23. An animal feed according to claim 22, wherein said hemicellulose is present in said animal feed in an amount ranging from about 2% to about 4% by weight of said animal feed.

24. An animal feed according to claim 1, said feed including from about 1% to about 25% fiber by dry weight.

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25. A method of feeding an animal, comprising the steps of:  
providing the animal feed of claim 1, and  
feeding said animal feed to an animal.

20 26. A method according to claim 25, wherein said animal is selected from the group consisting of a horse, a cow, a sheep, a pig, a rabbit, a guinea pig, a gerbil, a cat, and a dog.

27. A method according to claim 25, wherein said animal is a human.

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28. A method for preparing an animal feed, comprising:  
providing a fat, a solid nutritive source, and hemicellulose;  
combining said fat, said solid nutritive source, and said hemicellulose to form a  
mixture; and

5 forming discrete plural particles of animal feed from said mixture, said fat being  
present in said animal feed in an amount effective to provide nutritive fat to an animal  
and said hemicellulose being present in each of said particles in at least an amount  
effective to improve intraparticle cohesion, said particles being of a size suitable for  
feeding to an animal.

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29. A method according to claim 28, wherein said discrete plural particles  
are formed by pelletizing said mixture in a pellet mill.

30. A method according to claim 29, said pellets having a size ranging from  
15 about 1/8 in. to about 5/32 in.

31. A method according to claim 30, said pellets having a size ranging from  
about 1/16 in. to about 1/8 in.

20 32. A method according to claim 28, wherein said feed includes about 1% to  
about 25% fiber by dry weight.

33. A method according to claim 28, wherein said fat comprises a vegetable  
fat.

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34. A method according to claim 33, wherein said fat is selected from the group consisting of corn oil and soy oil.

35. A method according to claim 34, wherein said fat comprises corn oil.

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36. A method according to claim 28, wherein said fat comprises an animal fat.

37. A method according to claim 36, wherein said fat comprises choice  
10 white grease.

38. A method according to claim 28, wherein said fat is present in said animal feed in an amount of at least about 5% by weight of said feed.

39. A method according to claim 28, wherein said solid nutritive source  
15 includes a source selected from the group consisting of whole wheat, whole rice, whole corn and whole barley.

40. A method according to claim 39, wherein said solid nutritive source  
20 includes a nutritive ingredient selected from the group consisting of vitamins and nutritive minerals.

41. A method according to claim 28, wherein said solid nutritive source  
includes a source selected from the group consisting of a nutritive wheat fraction, a  
25 nutritive rice fraction, a nutritive corn fraction, and a nutritive barley fraction.

42. A method according to claim 41, wherein said solid nutritive source includes a nutritive ingredient selected from the group consisting of vitamins and nutritive minerals.

5           43. A method according to claim 28, wherein said solid nutritive source includes protein, said protein being present in an amount ranging from about 5% to about 35% by weight of said animal feed.

          44. A method according to claim 28, wherein said hemicellulose is present  
10 in said animal feed in an amount ranging from about 0.2% to about 10% by weight of said animal feed.